

Remarks

Claims 20 to 24, 26 to 29, 31 and 32 remain in this application.

Claims 1 to 10 were previously canceled

Claims 11 to 19 which are directed to a non-elected invention have been canceled for filing in a separate Divisional application.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the characteristics of dependent claim 25 and dependent claim 30.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the characteristic of claim 25.

Claim 20 has been rejected as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Goetz. The Examiner alleges that the admitted prior art discloses substantially all the claimed features including rotating wound rolls 90° or 180°. The Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to provide the admitted prior art with rotating means as taught by Goetz to rotate the rolls into the desired orientation. Issue is taken in this respect.

First, as previously noted, Goetz describes an arrangement including a pair of turntables 64, 72 which are spaced apart as well as two different types of cars 66, 70 for conveying wound rolls onto and between the two turntables 64, 72 in order to rotate the wound rolls 180°.

Any modification of the prior art structures with the teachings of Goetz would result in the use of two widely spaced apart turntables and two types of cars in order to effect a 180° rotation of a wound roll. The resulting modified structure would not result in the structure as recited in claim 20.

More specifically, claim 20 requires a preparatory machine for sequentially delivering wound laps. . . and a conveying belt disposed transversely of said preparatory machine for

sequentially receiving the delivered wound laps. . . and means located between said preparatory machine and said conveyor belt for sequentially rotating each wound lap 180°.in a plane of said longitudinal axis. . . and conveying each wound lap from said preparatory machine onto said conveyor in coaxially equally-spaced apart relation.

As can be seen in Figs. 1 to 3 of applicant's drawings, the claimed means [rotating device 30] is located to convey a wound lap from the preparatory machine onto the conveyor. Any modification of the admitted prior art structures with the "rotating means" of Goetz would require a roll feeding station 2, a roll preparing station 4 and a loading station 6 with a lifting crane 76 in addition to the two turntables 64 and 72 and the several cars 66 and 70. Consequently, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ such a space consuming and complex structure in any of the admitted prior art devices.

As is known, the space available in a spinning plant is restricted. Therefore, it is necessary to find a solution of an arrangement for rotating the wound laps which is easy and does not require much space. The apparatus of Goetz is clearly not one which one of ordinary skill in the art would endeavor to position between a preparatory machine and a conveying belt disposed transversely of the preparatory machine as claimed.

In view of the above, a rejection of claim 20 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 20 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Further, with respect to claim 31, note is made of the Examiner's allegation that the inclined ramp 62 of Boehm would not be needed if the rolls being delivered to the apparatus were of the same level as the apparatus. Issue is taken in this respect.

Specifically, as can be seen in Figs. 2 and 4 of Boehm, if the tubular members 50 were at the same level as the conveyed coil, transfer of the coil from the pivotable hook 77 onto the tubular member 50 would not occur. Instead, it would appear that the machine would jam.

Accordingly, a rejection of claim 31 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz and further in view of Boehm is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claim 21 requires steps of "producing a series of wound laps. . . each. . . having a web wound onto a tube about a longitudinal axis of the tube; delivering each wound lap. . . onto a conveyor belt extending in a direction parallel to said axis; sequentially rotating each wound lap . . . 180°. . . conveying the wound laps on said conveyor belt. . . longitudinally of said axis. . .". In Goetz, the rolls 14 are conveyed on the feeding apparatus 8 with the axis of each roll perpendicular to the axis of the feeding apparatus 8. Accordingly, any modification of the admitted prior art devices with the teachings of Goetz would not result in the claimed method. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 21 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claim 21 has been amended in editorial fashion to more particularly point out that the conveyor belt is driven in stepwise manner to space the wound laps delivered to the conveyor belt in equally spaced relation along the conveyor belt.

At last claim 24 has been rejected as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Goetz and further in view of Boehm. Issue is taken in this respect for the

reasons expressed above. Specifically, for reasons as expressed above, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the admitted prior art structures with a rotating means as described in Goetz. Further, for reasons as expressed above, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the to modify the admitted prior art with a rotating means as described in Boehm. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 24 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz and Boehm is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 26 to 29 depend from claim 24 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

The application is believed to be in obvious condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

A form PTO 1449 is being submitted herewith to cite US Patent 5,141,095 of record. This patent was cited in a corresponding Chinese patent application. This patent describes a package transport device packages from a delivery belt A onto one or another of advancing belts B;C arranged at different heights. Use is made of a lifting column 11 that is rotatable so that the packages may be rotated for transfer to the respective advancing belts B.C.. There is no teaching in this patent that would motivate

one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate such a package transport device into the admitted prior art particularly for a controlled conveyance of wound laps.

CERTIFICATE

FIRST CLASS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

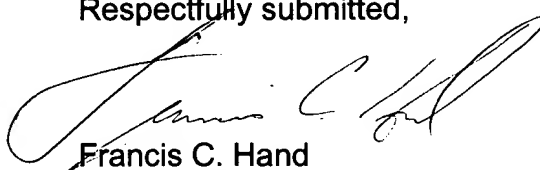
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 2213-1450


Francis C. Hand, Esq.

12-8-2002
Date

203360

Respectfully submitted,


Francis C. Hand
Reg. No. 22,280

CARELLA, BYRNE BAIN, GILFILLAN,
CECCHI, STEWART & OLSTEIN
Five Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068
Phone: 973-994-1700
Fax: 973-994-1744